

ARTICLE ~~REVISED~~
ON PAGE A-12

NEW YORK TIMES
15 APRIL 1983

Transcript of President Reagan Remarks to News Reporters

Following is a transcript of President Reagan's statement yesterday in Washington on the confirmation of Kenneth L. Adelman as head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, followed by an exchange with reporters, as recorded by The New York Times:

OPENING STATEMENT

I am deeply gratified by the United States Senate's confirmation today of Ambassador Kenneth Adelman to be director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. It's my earnest hope that this positive step will mark the beginning of a new bipartisan consensus on the vital issue of nuclear arms reduction. I'm convinced that Kenneth Adelman will prove that the confidence which the Senate has expressed in him today is well-founded. Under his leadership we can look forward to a reinvigorated Arms Control and Disarmament Agency that will make an important contribution to our arms reduction efforts.

As we seek equitable and verifiable agreements with the Soviet Union to reduce the arsenals and the risks of war, we will need the advice and support of the Congress. I'm confident that with full consultation with Congress and the development of our arms reduction initiatives, the United States can continue to be a force for genuine peace and progress in the world. And if we're met with reciprocal seriousness of purpose from the Soviet Union, 1983 can be a year of historic importance in securing a more solid and stable peace through arms reductions. Helen?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Insurgents in Nicaragua

Q. Mr. President, are we directly or indirectly supplying, arming or training any insurgents — Nicaraguan insurgents? And if so, why?

A. We are complying with the law — the Boland Amendment, which is the law — we're complying with that fully.

Arms or Supplies

Q. Does that mean we are not arming or supplying any of the dissidents along the border — the Honduran border?

A. I am not going to get into — I could not and would not possibly talk about such things. But may I point out that this whole controversy over Nicaragua is ignoring some realities — that the Nicaraguan Government is a revolutionary Government that took power by force, but with the promise of democratic elections, none of which have taken place, and all of this was under the previous Administration.

The previous Administration, however, did recognize this Government of Nicaragua, sought to help it with considerable financial aid and withdrew that aid long before we were here when it became apparent that the Government had become completely Marxist, had turned away and thrown out some of the democratic groups that had supported them and fought with them in the revolution to bring democracy to Nicaragua, and were then no longer a part of the Government. But also the cutoff of funds was because the Nicaraguan Government had pledged to the United States that it would not attempt to overthrow any other governments in Central America, particularly El Salvador, by helping the insurgents there — the guerrillas — and they violated that promise. And they are still violating it.

And anything that we are doing in that area is simply trying to interdict the supply lines, which are supplying the guerrillas in El Salvador. But the picture today is that Nicaragua, with its protests that somehow someone is trying to overthrow them — it, as a revolutionary Government, is trying to overthrow the Government of a neighboring country, El Salvador, which was a duly-elected Government, and which is going to hold another election before this year is out.

Boland Statement

Q. But Mr. President, what is the American public to think if Congressman Boland, who as you know is chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, says there's very strong evidence that we are violating the law? How do we clear this with the American people? Don't they have a reason, if a Congressman is saying that we're violating the law...?

A. Well, maybe some of you people misled him.

Access to Intelligence

Q. No, but he has access to intelligence information, to Administration briefings and...

A. Yes, and of — I think Secretary Shultz and Security Adviser Judge Clark have both been talking to him, and you have seen the statement by Barry Goldwater of the Intelligence Committee that is absolutely positive that there is no violation of the law whatsoever. I think that when they pay a little more attention to this they're going to find out we're not violating the law.

Let me do what I promised the other day and start with some of the people in the back of the room here.

A Perspective

Q. Mr. President, are you willing to say flatly that the United States is not engaging in any activities that a reasonable person could assume would be

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~